

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 46

Volume II

DOCUMENT NO. 46

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

DECLASSIFIED FOR WEEK ending 15 November 1949

CLASS. CHANGED TO TS S C

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HRP/O-2

DATE: 11 Nov 59 REVIEWER: 006514

The International Week

A solution to the long-drawn out Italian colonies question at last appeared in the offing as the GA Political Committee overwhelmingly adopted a compromise settlement (49-1-8). Meanwhile, the Special Political Committee passed the Canadian-French resolution calling for continuance of the six-power talks on atomic energy control and stressing the necessity for some surrender of national sovereignty in order to solve the problem. At the same time, a Soviet condemnation of US-UK atomic "obstructionism" was rejected 5-50-3. In the Trusteeship Committee, a resolution continuing the Special Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories for another three years was adopted as well as a US-Mexican proposal instructing the Special Committee to examine the problem of education in such territories.

Conflict within the Council of Europe. The basic divergence between the two main organs of the fledgling Council of Europe was clearly illustrated during two recent Paris meetings. As anticipated, the Committee of Ministers, representing the governments, took a cautious, almost negative approach to the Assembly's Strasbourg proposals, arousing a strong reaction from the Standing Committee of the Assembly. The Ministers, convening to consider the Assembly recommendations, took positive action only on the admission of Western Germany and the Saar to the Council. Important Assembly recommendations on broadening the Assembly's authority, creating a European Court of Human Rights and fostering European economic integration were either shelved or referred to various bodies for further study. In addition to taking a generally negative approach to proposals for European unification, the Ministers attempted to remove important issues from the competence of Assembly committees by referring them to bodies such as the CEEC and UNESCO. This tendency illustrates the Ministers' preference for dealing with governmental bodies rather than with Assembly organs, which are composed of parliamentary representatives who have displayed a considerable degree of independence.

Assembly reaction to these tactics was quickly revealed through its Standing Committee which met immediately following the Ministers' session. The unanimous revolt of this Committee against the Ministers' decisions demonstrated an awareness of the need for action and also a willingness to take the initiative in

proceeding with studies of European integration despite clear indications that the Ministers opposed further committee meetings. In the long run, the Assembly's evident determination to press ahead, coupled with outside pressures for European integration, will force the Committee of Ministers to modify its attitude and take a more positive approach in future sessions.

New UN pressures on colonial systems. The potential force of the UN as a mechanism for liquidating colonial empires because of the deep-seated and almost universal anti-colonial attitude of the world's non-colonial states is evident in the proceedings of the GA Trusteeship Committee. By overwhelming majorities, the Committee has passed a series of proposals recommending a greater degree of UN supervision over colonial areas and holding the colonial powers to stricter accountability for the management of their dependencies. A particularly significant extension of UN authority is, for example, the proposal on Administrative Unions which would permit UN supervision of component non-self-governing territories as well as the trust areas. Other resolutions call for more rapid steps toward social, economic, educational and political advancement.

These proposals have elicited a strong reaction from the colonial powers. The UK has vehemently opposed almost every resolution. France and Belgium, usually voting with the UK, have often been joined by Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa and Greece. The US, on the other hand, has sided with the majority in all but two or three instances. All the proposals seem assured of passage in the plenary except one, opposed by the US, requesting the Administering Powers to furnish "blueprints" of the steps they intend to take in fostering advancement of trust territories toward self-determination. Despite presumable GA approval of these proposals, a number of them raise issues to which the Charter does not provide a clear-cut answer and appeals to the International Court may be made by one or more of the colonial powers in the fairly near future. Notwithstanding such legal complications, there is no question but that the UN, by providing a forum in which colonial conditions can be examined, grievances heard, and recommendations made, is undoubtedly the most powerful single instrumentality today for giving expression to the aspirations of colonial peoples for independence.

Italian colonies solution assured. The overwhelming Political Committee vote for a one-package resolution on the Italian colonies, with only Ethiopia in opposition, virtually assures its passage by the GA. The resolution, while meeting minimal US and UK security requirements, is nevertheless the lowest common denominator acceptable to the GA. Through its provisions for early independence

for Libya (1952) and Somaliland (in ten years), it will hastily create two new states which are far from possessing the necessary requisites of statehood. Advisory Councils provided for Libya (ten members) and Somaliland (three members) during the pre-independence period may unduly interfere with the administering powers. The UK also fears that the called-for creation of an "independent sovereign" Libya might hamper its concluding a separate defense arrangement with Cyrenaica. Finally, the disposition of Eritrea was once again postponed and with the rising tide of independence sentiment within that colony, the recommendations of the proposed investigating commission will hardly be as favorable to Ethiopia as those previously backed by the US and UK. However, the Political Committee resolution represents the best compromise obtainable between the strong independence sentiment of the anti-colonial powers and the security interests of the US and UK.

A

Catholic-Socialist dissension retards Western labor unity.
The dissatisfaction of the French Christian Trade Union Federation (CFTC) and the Catholic Trade Union International over the exclusion of most European Christian unions from the forthcoming London Conference to create a new labor international poses a difficult problem for Western labor leaders. The Preparatory Committee decided to exclude these unions under pressure from Belgian and Dutch Socialist labor leaders who demanded that admission of any additional national unions (such as the Belgian and Dutch Catholic unions) be subject to the approval of the existing national centers, most of which happen to be Socialist. The CFTC plans to protest strongly the grant of this veto and to reveal to "naive" US labor delegates the Socialist and "anti-Christian" character of the projected new international. At the same time the CFTC apparently recognizes that the failure to invite other Christian unions removes the Catholic International from the embarrassing position of having to reject unity with other Western labor in order to preserve its own separate existence. Some of the Christian unionists feel that had they all been invited to London such a choice might eventually have confronted them.

The British and American labor leaders guiding the first uncertain steps of the new international are aware of the serious implications of continued dissension between Europe's Socialist and Catholic trade unionists and will probably seek to keep it from becoming an issue at the London Conference by postponing any decision on admission of certain Christian unions. They may be supported by the Italian Christian Federation which, as a newly-formed organization, is less closely tied to the Catholic

International and more interested in gaining international recognition. Should such conciliatory efforts be effective, the French Christian unionists are likely to remain at London in the hope that a solution will eventually be worked out facilitating association of either the Catholic International or the component national Catholic trade unions with the new world labor organization.

WFTU Peiping Conference will stress aid to Southeast Asia.
The WFTU Conference of Asian and Australasian trade unions in Peiping 15 November will primarily consider aid to the trade unions of Southeast Asia and formation of a WFTU liaison bureau in Asia. At the WFTU Congress last July the USSR characterized assistance to the "colonial and dependent" trade unions as "the most important task of the Federation" and the presence of the Chairman of the Soviet Central Trade Union Council at Peiping probably indicates the Kremlin's determination to obtain prompt action. To coordinate its plans the WFTU has assembled delegates from China, Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Australia. Visa refusals, difficulties of transit, and inadequate funds will probably prevent attendance of Communist-led unions from India (the All-India TUC), Burma, and Japan. However, the Pakistan Trade Union Federation's decision to send a delegation will partially offset these absences.

D/In Notes

Yugoslavia will attach Rokossovsky appointment. The Yugoslavs will comment sharply on the appointment of Soviet Marshal Rokossovsky as Polish Minister of Defense in the forthcoming debate on the Soviet "Peace Resolution." They lost no time in sarcastically referring thereto in the Social Committee when in reply to Soviet criticism of Belgrade's treatment of "White Russian refugees, Yugoslav representative Dedijer said, "Perhaps the Soviet delegate would like to export to us a Marshal as they did to Poland. Thank you very much for that service, no!"

Probable UNCIP recommendations to the SC. It is expected, in view of US and UK support for the proposal, that UNCIP's forthcoming report will recommend that the SC appoint a single individual to attempt to bring India and Pakistan into agreement over Kashmir. It is likely that Admiral Nimitz, despite Nehru's coolness toward him, will be the SC's appointee and will be sent to the sub-continent with broad authority to effect agreement without abandoning the principles of arbitration and plebiscite.

Finnish labor will not attend London Conference. The decision of the Finnish Trade Union Federation not to send representatives to the London International Trade Union Conference apparently reflects the desire of Finland's Socialist labor leaders not to offend the USSR unnecessarily at this time. The recent visit to Helsinki of the Soviet trade union leader, Kuznetsov, may have persuaded the usually firm Finns that the Russians would consider their participation in this "labor-splitting" conference an unfriendly act.

The UN Role in the Indonesian Dispute

Without the intervention of the Security Council in August 1947, at which time the dispute was already two years old, the thorny Indonesian problem would still be unresolved. Instead, after 27 months of tortuous negotiations under the aegis of the UN Commission established by the SC, the Dutch and the Indonesians finally achieved mutual accord on 2 November 1949 with both parties agreeing to establish a union in which they will be equal under the Dutch crown. To the United Nations Commission for Indonesia, together with the military observers attached to that body, goes much of the credit for solution of the dispute. While both the Dutch and the Indonesians wanted settlement, both were in difficult positions. Political and economic pressures were harassing the Dutch and world opinion turned against them as the US took a firm stand behind the UN and the New Delhi Conference manifested Asian indignation. The Indonesians were aware that settlement had to be made to prevent extremists among them from getting the upper hand. However, to reach agreement far-reaching concessions had to be made by both sides, and the UN became the diplomatic bridge between the two.

The three nation commission (Australia, Belgium and the US) lent its good offices to the contenders, mediated and arbitrated and finally unraveled the difficult problem, with Merle Cochran, the US representative, as the driving force. He made himself available at all times to both sides and was the general means of communication between the delegations. Working behind the scenes, he smoothed over differences and made able suggestions to tide the Indonesians and the Dutch over difficult moments when a deadlock seemed inevitable. While Cochran dealt with the political talks, the military observers did much to prevent the military situation from flaring up. The work of the observers was particularly important during the Hague Round Table Conference, where final agreement was reached, and during which time any serious military action in Indonesia would have upset the negotiations.

Although the UN has completed the greatest part of its task in Indonesia, it is important that UNCI remain in continuous existence to observe Dutch troop withdrawals and the Indonesian elections. With the transfer of sovereignty, stability in Indonesia will be tested and a UN commission on the scene to observe will lend a stabilizing influence. Any SC decision to terminate the UNCI and constitute a new UN body would create a dangerous vacuum between the time sovereignty is transferred and a new body would be created and begin to function. Nevertheless, Indonesia's prospects for successful transition from colonial status are promising and, in retrospect, the Indonesian case appears as the most successful UN accomplishment so far.